

U.S. Adoption Statistics 2004 – Guatemala & China

- Guatemala – 3,264
- China – 7,044
- No statistics available for Michigan specifically
- Source – U.S. Dept. of State,
http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/stats/stats_451.html

Name Change Time Limits by County

Isabella County

Family must wait until child is at least one year of age and the child must live in the county for at least one year before his/her name can be changed.

Jackson County

Family must wait until the child has lived in the county for at least one year in order for his/her name to be changed.

Livingston County

Name can be changed at time of delayed registration of birth.

Macomb County

Name can be changed at time of delayed registration of birth.

Monroe County

Name can be changed at time of delayed registration of birth.

Oakland County

Name can be changed at time of delayed registration of birth

Washtenaw County

A legal name change cannot occur until the child is at least 2 years old, however they are changing the name on the birth certificates etc. but it is not a legal change at that time.

Wayne County

Child must be a resident of the county for at least one year before name can be changed.



House Bill 4242

International Adoption Name Changes



Family Adopts Internationally

- Adoption finalized in child's birth country
- Final, legal adoption occurring under the laws of that country
- Final international adoption recognized in Michigan as a final, legal adoption
- Child's name changed in birth country – first, middle, last
- Child's legal documents issued with new name – birth certificate, passport, adoption papers



Guatemala & China

- Some countries do not allow the child's first & middle names to be changed
- Only last name is changed to the last name of adopting parents
- When parents return to Michigan, parents must wait 1 year in most counties to change the child's name
- Inconsistent – some counties require 1 year, some 2 years, some immediate
- New legal documents must be issued in a name parents do not want & do not use
- State is saying to parents the legally adopted child is not theirs, that parents are not able to claim this child as their own

Documents Applied for Upon Return to Michigan

- Delayed Registration of Foreign Birth
- Social Security card/number
- U.S. Passport
- Certificate of Citizenship
- Medical Insurance
- Life Insurance Policies
- Wills
- Trusts
- Etc.



Families Need to Claim Children as Their Own

- Naming a child is one of the most basic ways of a family saying "this child belongs to our family."
- By not allowing families to do this immediately, on a legal level, delays the family's attachment
- Another way "society" indicates adoptive families are different from all other families